

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title as follows:

**IMAGE CHARACTERISTIC PORTION EXTRACTION METHOD, AND
~~COMPUTER READABLE MEDIUM, AND DATA COLLECTION AND~~
~~PROCESSING DEVICE~~**

Please amend the 5th paragraph on page 20 as follows:

When the size of the search window 23 has gone beyond the bounds defined by the upper and lower limitations as a result of processing being repeated in sequence of steps S7-S12, [...] a result of determination rendered in step S7 becomes negative (N). In this case, processing proceeds to face detection determination processing pertaining to step S13, where the determination is performed, and the result of the determination is that "no face" is detected.